

Ag Conference Call Notes

May 16, 2007

9 a.m.

Present: Tom McCarthy, Eric Wiklund, Cindy Martens, Ken Hessenius, Jeff Prier, Dan Olson, Josh Sobaski, Randy Clark, Gene Tinker, Bob Palla and Karen Grimes

RUSLE2: There is a new version and the profile erosion calculation record is printed in a table form. A sample of this was emailed to each office.

200 A Form: The 200A form has been updated to include animals other than poultry. Bedded cattle can now be registered under 200A with the Department of Agriculture. Remember they are giving up ownership of the manure and must remove it from the land owned by the facility owner. If there is a water quality violation then the manure falls under DNR authority even if it's registered under 200A.

Poultry Update: Gene is working on a PIG for stockpiling of dry manure. It is done and is in the review process right now. If poultry projects come in stating they will be hauling directly to the field and not building storage be sure to send them the no stockpiling letter by certified mail. The CDS must state that they are not stockpiling on site and state that they have a 200A license (with a copy enclosed). Have them put this on the comments/description line.

If you find facilities stockpiling proceed as follows: send an NOV stating they have 1 month to get a Plan of Action submitted to you. If the POA is suitable give them 6 months to construct. If there is a water quality violation, it's an automatic referral with penalty.

Culvert: A culvert is not a water source unless it is associated with a water source.

Divided Barns: Some cattle and sheep barns are using partial roofing to stay out of permit size. It is all one large barn that is divided into pens. Some pens are under roof at all times and some pens are only partially roofed. If the barn is all roofed they are confined and if they are all partially roofed they are open lot. Be sure to count the head under each roofing situation and have them get construction permits or NPDES permits as needed. Remind them that EPA doesn't differentiate between housing types.

Land in MMPs: If a facility wants to include land in the P-index based plan the land must have correct soil sampling (except in the case of original MMPs). An existing facility can not include land in the MMP until the P-index is run with correct soil sampling. (If they list the land and cross it out or strike through it that is okay.)

Gated Piping: Gated Piping can be used as a method of irrigation for an NMP. They must move the piping to cover the field and obtain even application. For an AT system the settled effluent doesn't need to be in the NMP. When you are on the farm reviewing, talk to them about management and records of these sites.

NMP Deadline: All open lot facilities 1,000 and more animal units must have their NMP submitted by July 31, 2007. While the Federal date has changed, the 7/31/07 date is in Iowa Statute and must be followed. There have been meetings regarding the mechanics of this process as far as the website, forms, public notice, public comments, review, etc. A cursory review will be done upon submittal and a thorough review will be done during the site visit. A checklist was sent to each office for their use in reviewing these NMPs. A mailing was sent to facilities needing an NMP to tell them how to do public notice, providing a form for the public notice, and reminding them to get the NMP in by 7/31/07 or they will be penalized. The industry has known this for two years, this is just a reminder.

Gene will be doing the public hearings and taking public comments if there are any.

Residence or not? If a residence appears to be abandoned during a site survey, be sure to check it out with the land owner. During one survey a house was alleged to be a residence because they stored furniture there and the person caring for the animals on site came in to eat lunch or watch TV periodically, but no one lived there. This was not classified as a residence. It is like a farm shop, office or outbuilding where they have a sofa and TV. It is not a residence.

Draft Plan for Small Open lots: Lyle has been in contact with the ICA and staff is just waiting for them to sign on to this. Gene will get more information and let staff know the outcome.

Training Opportunities:

RUSLE2 and Iowa P Index Workshop - June 12 Des Moines

Advanced RUSLE2 Workshop - June 13 Des Moines

Manure Applicator Certification Advisory Committee - July 25, ISU Campus

Manure Application Education Field Day, Carroll, Aug. 7

Manure Management Clinic - Aug. 28-29 FEEL

Concrete: Bob stated that if you see poor concrete or poor conditions during pouring (like rain puddles) you can require strength testing, require monitoring of tiles or require that they repour the floor.

Ownership of Land: There is a draft memo in the AG's office regarding this topic. During construction permitting the DNR is not looking to see if they are the landowner, this is a property rights issue not an AFO issue. Some have paperwork stating the option to buy which is fine as well as ownership.

The next Ag Conference Call will be on Wednesday, June 27th at 9 a.m.

Submitted by Cindy Martens